



AMERICAN ACADEMY  
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

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Dear Member of Congress:

I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Ophthalmology to express our strong support for the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (H.R. 8487), as amended. The Academy strongly urges you to support this important legislation when it is considered by the Ways and Means Committee. The Academy is the world's largest association of eye physicians and surgeons and works to protect sight and empower lives by setting the standards for ophthalmic education and advocating for our patients and the public.

The law bars MA organizations from creating barriers to care that do not exist in the original fee-for-service Medicare program. However, ophthalmologists across the country are reporting that some MA plans have imposed increasingly onerous prior authorization requirements for medical services and procedures. These requirements can delay or prevent access to necessary sight-saving medical care and can be particularly burdensome on ophthalmology practices, especially when the requests are approved in most cases.

H.R. 8487 will improve the prior authorization process for both patients and physician practices by increasing transparency, streamlining processes, and minimizing the use of prior authorization for services that are routinely approved. This bipartisan legislation has been endorsed by more than 500 organizations representing patients, providers and the medical technology and biopharmaceutical industry.

The Academy is proud to support the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act, and we hope you will join us by supporting this important legislation when it is considered by the Ways and Means Committee. We also hope that you will work with your colleagues to quickly bring the legislation to the floor for a vote by the full U.S. House of Representatives so it can be enacted into law before the end of the year.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact the Academy's Washington office at 202-737-6662 if you or your staff have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael X. Repka, MD, MBA  
Medical Director for Governmental Affairs  
American Academy of Ophthalmology